**IDEA Pathfinder**

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| **Text to Speech Tools** |
| <http://www.accessfirefox.org/CLiCk_Speak.php> -  This is an add-on for Firefox (you must use firefox as your browser). It is free to download and at the click of a button it will read the highlighted text on the web page, or it can read the entire page. It is accessible through a tool bar.  <http://www.naturalreaders.com/>-- On screen text to speech application, available for free download from the website. Converts text to word and works on many programs such as internet explorer, word, outlook, and more.  [www.wordtalk.org.uk/Home](http://www.wordtalk.org.uk/Home/" \t "_blank) -- A add on you can download for Microsoft word that reads what students have written. Highlights text as it reads and also includes a text to MP3 converter. You can also change the speed and voice of the reader. Also contains a talking dictionary application. Download directly from the website.  <http://www.abilityhub.com/read/devices-tts.htm> -- Roadrunner text to speech is a handheld device that allows users to listen to text files without being connected to a computer. Holds up to 2,000 pages of text and can read for up to 40 straight hours. Uses 2 AA batteries. Uses TXT. Files.  **Audiobooks**  [http://www.bookshare.org/](http://www.bookshare.org/%20%20)  -- Free for all US students with disabilities. Contains a large library of books and magazines. It allows these students to download the books and then read them using assistive technologies. Serves students with visual impairments, physical disabilities, and learning disabilities.  **Blind and Visually Impaired (ScreenReaders and Magnifiers)** |
| [**http://www.freedomscientific.com/products/fs/jaws-product-page.asp**](http://www.freedomscientific.com/products/fs/jaws-product-page.asp) **--** Jaws screenreading software is made for people who are blind. It takes what is on your computer screen and speaks it through the speakers. Supports most any web browsers. Can be purchased online.  <http://www.enablemart.com/Catalog/Screen-Magnification/ZoomText> -- Zoomtext combines screen magnification with screen reading. Includes fractional magnification. Can be purchased online.  <http://www.yourdolphin.com/productdetail.asp?id=1> – Supernova is a full screen reader which offer magnification, speech and Braille support. Can be purchased online.  **Cognitive Disabilities**  [http://www.watchminder.com/](http://www.watchminder.com/%20) -- Watchminder is a wristwatch designed to help students remember important things. It looks like a normal sportswatch but is programmable to vibrate reminders.  <http://www.brainaid.com/>-- Peat is a handheld computer system that provides cueing and scheduling assistance. Includes a touch screen which can be used with a finger or stylus.  **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**  <http://www.myicommunicator.com/>-- The icommunicator is a computer translator. It translates speech to text, speech/text to video sign language, or speech/text to voice. Once information has been translated the user can use the dictionary and perform internet searches based on the information.  **Mouse/Keyboard Alternatives**  <http://www.abilityhub.com/mouse/eyegaze.htm> -- The eyegaze system has a camera mounted on the top of the monitor that focuses on the user’s eyes. The user can then move their eyes to focus on different points on the screen to move the mouse. Mouse click can be done with varying eye blinks. |
| <http://www.footmouse.com/>-- This no hands mouse is completely operated by the user’s foot. One pedal controls all mouse movements and clicks. Windows and Mac compatible.  <http://www.abilityhub.com/keyboard/onscreen.htm> -- OnScreen Keyboard provides the used with a keyboard on the screen. It is only compatible with windows software. The assistive technology version provides extra features designed specifically for individuals with disabilities.  **Speech Recognition**  <http://www.nuance.com/naturallyspeaking/products/>-- The Dragon naturally speaking software allows you to “create, edit, and revise documents and e-mail, even surf the Web by voice.” Compatible with Internet Explorer.  <http://www.abilityhub.com/speech/speech-software.htm> -- QPointer allows you to have complete computer control with your voice. This works with any application  **Assistive Devices Websites**  <http://www.abilityhub.com/>-- offers information and links on assistive devices and techniques that enable persons with disabilities to use computers. Great sites with many links.  <http://www.disabilityresources.org/AT-BLIND.html> -- Focused solely on persons with vision problems or blindness. Provides links and information to assistive technologies for these people.  <http://www.disabilityresources.org/AT-DEAF.html> -- Provides links and assistive technologies for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.  <http://www.disabilityresources.org/AT-LD.html> -- Provides resources including links and assistive technologies for people with learning disabilities.  <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/at/types.aspx> -- An overview of different types of assistive technologies for all different kinds of disabilities. Each assistive technology includes a description.  <http://www.disabilityresources.org/AT.html> -- This portion of the Disabilities Resources site contains information and links to information about assistive technology, including funding, and types of assistive technology.  <http://www.abledata.com/>-- A database of information on assistive technology available from all different sources. Included on this site are; links to web resources, Assistive Technology Library, review publications, conferences and events dealing with assistive technology and disabilities, and news.  **Journal Articles**  Crow, Kevin L. "Four Types of Disabilities: Their Impact on Online Learning." *TechTrends: Linking Research and Practice to Improve Learning* 52.1 (2008): 51-55. *ERIC*. EBSCO. Web. 24 June 2010.  This article focuses on issues and challenges faced by students with special needs when it comes to online learning, and makes suggestions for assistive technologies to help ease those challenges.  Koehler, Linda. "50 Essential Web Sites for Teachers of Students with Mild or Moderate Disabilities." Intervention in School and Clinic 42.5 (2007): 285-289. ERIC. EBSCO. Web. 24 June 2010.  This articles does just what the title says; provides 50 websites which will help teachers when serving students with mild to severe disabilities.  Simpson, Cynthia G., et al. "Assistive Technology: Supporting Learners in Inclusive Classrooms." Kappa Delta Pi Record 45.4 (2009): 172-175. ERIC. EBSCO. Web. 24 June 2010.  This article focuses on students with special needs who are being served in a regular classroom and what we can do to help them succeed using assistive technologies.  Singh, Delar K. "Web Resources for Special Education." *Online Submission* (2010): *ERIC*. EBSCO. Web. 24 June 2010.  Provides links and descriptions to websites dealing with special education issues. |
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